

TIMBER SALE PROSPECTUS

Sale Name :	Ararat Timber Sale	Type of Sale :	Scaled
National Forest :	Plumas	Ranger District :	Feather River
Bidding Method :	Sealed Bid	Bid Guarantee :	\$10,000.00

Location of Bid Opening : Feather River Ranger District Office, 875 Mitchell Ave., Oroville, CA 95965

Date : 09/24/2010

Time : 10:00 AM

1. INTRODUCTION. This prospectus furnishes prospective bidders with information not contained in the published advertisement and is designed to enable bidders to decide whether or not to further investigate the sale. The prospectus is not a legally binding document, but is offered to provide general information about a sale. The contract does not include descriptions, estimates, and other data in this prospectus, unless otherwise stated. In the event that the prospectus contains an error or contradicts the sample contract, the contract governs. Bidders are urged to examine the timber sale and make their own estimates. Timber sale Contract 2400-6 will be used. Inspect the sale area and the sample contract before submitting a bid. Obtain the appraisal, other information on the timber, and conditions of sale and bidding at Forest Service offices listed above and in the named attached advertisement.

2. BIDDING. This is a Sealed Bid sale. Bidders must submit sealed bids on prepared forms they can obtain from Forest Service offices listed above and in the attached advertisement. The forms include instructions for bidding and submission of the required certifications. A bid guarantee must be included with the bid in the form of cash, a bid bond on form FS-6500-13 (4/82) or later, certification of annual bid bond allocation on form FS-6500-13a (4/82) or later, an irrevocable letter of credit, a certified check, bank draft, cashiers check, official bank check, or bank or postal money order payable to the Forest Service, USDA in the amount specified above and in the bid form. The bid guarantee shall be returned to each bidder whose bid is not accepted.

Total Sale Value Bidding:

Prospective purchasers must submit bids in terms of the minimum acceptable total sale value. The bid form states minimum acceptable bid rates and estimated quantities of timber, together with the minimum acceptable total sale value. The advertised minimum acceptable total sale value is only for the biddable species, as listed on the bid form in the upper section of block 14. It does not include any non-biddable, fixed rate species listed in the lower section of block 14 titled "Required Removal at Fixed Rate. Only the Fixed Rate Applies." The bidder should enter the offer on the bid form only in terms of the total sale value. The Forest Service shall establish bid rates by species in the contract by multiplying each species' minimum acceptable bid rate by the bid increase percentage. Such rates will be rounded to the nearest cent. The bid increase percentage is the bidder's total sale value bid rate divided by the minimum acceptable total sale value. The total amount for stumpage is the volume of each biddable species multiplied by its bid rate, plus the volume of each fixed rate species multiplied by its fixed rate.

3. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF TIMBER. Refer to the sample contract and sale area map attached to the sample contract for legal location of sale area, location of subdivisions, location of cutting units, the acreage of sale area, and the cutting unit acreage.

THE FOLLOWING GENERAL LOCATION, ROUTES OF ACCESS, ACREAGES, AND OTHER SPECIAL LOCATION DATA DO NOT SUPERSEDE THE SALE AREA MAP OR SAMPLE CONTRACT.

The Ararat Timber Sale area is located on the Feather River Ranger District approximately 1 mile south of Bucks Lake and approximately 18 miles southwest of Quincy, CA. The sale is 67.7 composed of group selection harvest units. Access is via Road 414(Oro-Quincy Highway) from Quincy, CA or Highway 162 from Oroville, CA. The sale area includes all or portions of: T24N R8E Sections 17,18,19,20,29,30,31; T24N R7E Sections 2, 4, 8,9, 10,11, 12 ,13,14 ,15 ,16 ,24 ,25 ,36 MDM.

4. TIMBER QUANTITIES AND RATES. The quality, size, cut per acre, and product suitability of the timber are estimates based on detailed cruise information on file and available for inspection at the Forest Service offices listed above and in the advertisement. VOLUME QUANTITIES LISTED HEREIN ARE MADE AVAILABLE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT VALUES SHOWN ARE FOREST SERVICE ESTIMATES AND ARE NOT GUARANTEED. For these reasons, bidders are urged to examine the timber sale area and make their own estimates.

THE MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE BID RATE IS STATED IN THE ATTACHED BID FORM. THESE RATES ARE EFFECTIVE AT THE TIME OF ADVERTISEMENT.

**Estimated Quantities and Minimum Acceptable Rates
per Unit of Measure**

Species	Product	Unit of Measure	Estimated Quantities	Average DBH	Minimum Acceptable Bid Rates	Base Rates	Required Deposits	
							Slash Disposal	Road Maintenance
Ponderosa Pine	Sawtimber	CCF	24.50	N/A	\$70.75	\$5.00	\$6.03	\$16.07
Sugar Pine	Sawtimber	CCF	138.00	N/A	\$44.38	\$5.00	\$6.03	\$16.07
White Fir	Sawtimber	CCF	2,686.80	N/A	\$33.94	\$3.00	\$6.03	\$16.07
Required Removal at Fixed Rates								
Douglas Fir	Sawtimber	CCF	unestimated	N/A		N/A	\$6.03	\$16.07
Incense Cedar	Sawtimber	CCF	12.20	N/A	\$54.53	\$5.00	\$6.03	\$16.07
Lodgepole Pine	Sawtimber	CCF	unestimated	N/A		N/A	\$6.03	\$16.07
TOTAL		CCF	2,861.50				\$17,254.85	\$45,984.31

The minimum acceptable total sale value bid for advertised timber is \$99,047.81. It does not include any non-biddable, fixed rate species listed on the bid form in the lower section of block 14 titled "Required Removal at Fixed Rate. Only the Fixed Rate Applies." The total amount for stumpage is the volume of each biddable species multiplied by its bid rate, plus the volume of each fixed rate species multiplied by its fixed rate.

The bid rate for species and unit of measure are assigned under procedures for average bid premium bidding, as noted in this prospectus. This rate has been established by appraisal, with a cost allowance for the roads specified by the contract, if any. Required deposits for slash disposal and road maintenance are in addition to the advertised rates for timber.

Timber Subject to Agreement

Species	Product	Unit of Measure	Fixed Rates	Slash Disposal Deposits	Road Maintenance Deposits
Combined Softwood Cull	Cull Logs	CCF	\$1.00	\$6.03	\$16.07

Estimated Knutson-Vandenberg deposit for sale area improvement work in a total amount of \$99,723.00 is included in total timber value.

5. PERIOD OF CONTRACT. The normal operating season covers the period between 06/01 and 10/31. Contract termination date is 10/31/2013. Extensions of this contract may be granted only when the purchaser has met specified conditions.

If an appeal or lawsuit is filed challenging the decision to award this contract or upon determination by the Regional Forester that conditions existing on this timber sale are the same as, or nearly the same as, conditions existing on other timber sale(s) in appeal or litigation, Contracting Officer may delay award or reject all bids. If delay in award is for 30 days or more during Normal Operating Season after bid opening, Contracting Officer shall, upon award, adjust the contract term to include additional calendar days in one or

more Normal Operating Seasons equal to the time award is delayed during Normal Operating Season.

The purchaser must submit a Plan of Operations to the Contracting Officer for approval before operations begin or within 60 days of sale award, whichever is earlier. The plan must show how the purchaser plans to complete the contract by the termination date. In addition to the Plan of Operations, the purchaser must submit an annual Operating Schedule before commencing operations. This schedule will include the anticipated major activities and needs for harvest. This annual Operating Schedule does not require concurrence of the Forest Service.

6. PAYMENT. Payment for timber and any required deposits for slash disposal or road maintenance are required in advance of cutting. Purchaser may provide an acceptable payment guarantee prior to cutting. Payment for required deposits must be a cash payment. The purchaser shall make advance deposits in accordance with B(T)(P)4.212 - Advance Deposits.

The high bidder whose bid is accepted shall, at the time the contract is signed and returned by the bidder, make a downpayment pursuant to Title 36, Section 223.49, of the Code of Federal Regulations. The Contracting Officer will notify the high bidder of the amount necessary to make this payment. In no case shall the downpayment be less than 10 percent of the total advertised value and 20 percent of the bid premium. After receipt of the downpayment and a satisfactory performance bond and upon execution of the timber sale contract, the Forest Service will return the bid guarantee. A cash bid guarantee may be applied to the downpayment at the request of the purchaser. The purchaser cannot apply the amount deposited as a downpayment to cover other obligations due on the sale until stumpage value representing 25 percent of the total bid value of the sale has been charged and paid for on the statement of account.

By the midpoint between award date and the termination date, the purchaser shall have paid for, or in lieu thereof, deposited cash in the greater amount of: (1) 50 percent of the total estimated bid premium, or (2) 35 percent of the total estimated sale value at bid date, exclusive of required deposits, rounded up to the next \$100.

By the midpoint of the last normal operating season, or 12 months from the initial periodic payment whichever date is first, the purchaser shall have paid for, or in lieu thereof, deposited cash in the amount of 75 percent of the total estimated sale value at bid date, exclusive of required deposits, rounded up to the next \$100.

7. PERFORMANCE BOND. A performance bond is required. The penal sum of the bond will be 10 percent of the total bid value of the sale, rounded up to the nearest \$100 when the total bid value is \$10,000 or less; and rounded up to the nearest \$1,000 when the total bid value exceeds \$10,000. In no case will the performance bond be less than \$10,000.00. If an irrevocable letter of credit is used to secure the performance bond, the termination of the letter of credit must be at least 6 months past the contract termination date.

Purchaser may request inclusion of provision C(T)4.33 - Performance Bond as Security for Felled Timber to authorize deferment of payment for timber felled, but not removed, up to the penal sum of the performance bond. Contracting Officers must increase the penal sum of the performance bond as necessary to cover the estimated values of timber to be felled, but not removed. If the value of down timber exceeds the penal sum, the excess value must be covered by cash deposit or by payment bond.

8. SPECIFIED ROADS. Not Applicable.

9. ROAD MAINTENANCE. Purchaser shall perform or pay for road maintenance work, commensurate with purchaser's use, on roads controlled by Forest Service, and used by purchaser in connection with this sale. Road maintenance requirements are based on the predicted haul route. Any change in the purchaser's actual haul route may necessitate a change in the roads to be maintained and/or in the amount of required deposit for road maintenance. Required deposits for road maintenance are listed in Section 4 and in the sample contract. Maintenance specifications are in the sample contract.

10. INAPPLICABLE STANDARD PROVISIONS. See sample contract.

11. SPECIAL PROVISIONS. See sample contract.

12. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. Not Applicable.

13. SET-ASIDE SALES. Not Applicable.

14. LOG EXPORT AND SUBSTITUTION RESTRICTIONS. The contract requires domestic processing of included timber except for species declared to be surplus, and prohibits the use of such included timber in substitution for unprocessed private timber exported. The bidder, by signing the bid for advertised timber, certifies compliance with the applicable prohibitions against export and substitution prescribed in the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990, as amended (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) with each bid.

15. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMPLIANCE REVIEW. If the total bid value plus required deposits for this contract exceeds \$10 million, before award, the Forest Service shall request an equal employment opportunity compliance review of the high bidder to determine compliance with the provisions of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended by Executive Order 11375 of October 13, 1967 and Executive Order No. 12086 of October 5, 1978.

16. AWARD. The Contracting Officer is required to make a determination of bidder responsibility as stated in Title 36, Section 223.101, of the Code of Federal Regulations.

To determine a purchaser to be responsible, a Contracting Officer must find that:

- a. The purchaser has adequate financial resources to perform the contract or the ability to obtain them;
- b. The purchaser is able to perform the contract within the contract term taking into consideration all existing contracts and Governmental business commitments;
- c. The purchaser has a satisfactory performance record on timber sale contracts. A prospective purchaser that is or recently has been seriously deficient in contract performance shall be presumed not to be responsible, unless the Contracting Officer determines that the circumstances were beyond the purchaser's control and were not created through improper actions by the purchaser or affiliate, or that the purchaser has taken appropriate corrective action. Past failure to apply sufficient tenacity and perseverance to perform acceptably under a contract is strong evidence that a purchaser is not a responsible contractor. The Contracting Officer shall consider the number of contracts involved and extent of deficiency of each in making this evaluation;
- d. The purchaser has a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics;
- e. The purchaser has or is able to obtain equipment and supplies suitable for logging the timber and for meeting the resource protection provisions of the contract;
- f. The purchaser is otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award under applicable laws and regulations.

Bidders, by signing the bid form, certify that, to the best of bidder's knowledge the bidder will meet the requirements in 36 CFR 223.101, determination of purchaser responsibility, and, if awarded this contract, that bidder will complete the timber sale contract and any modifications thereof in accordance with its terms including requirements to purchase, cut, and remove included timber.

17. FALSE STATEMENTS ACT. Bidders, by signing the bid form, certify that they are aware that bidder is subject to the penalties prescribed in 18 U.S.C. 1001, Chapter 47, Fraud and False Statements (P.L. 104-45). The Act states "whoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact, or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both."

18. DAMAGES. This contract shall be terminated for breach pursuant to paragraph 16, 19, and/or 21 of the bid form and the terms of the sample contract if: 1) bidder fails to execute a timber sale contract, furnish a downpayment, or furnish a satisfactory performance bond within 30 days of the award letter's date; or 2) bidder is found to have violated the False Statements Act in making any statement or certification on the bid form including not meeting purchaser responsibility requirements, and bidder has made a false statement. The bid guarantee shall be retained, in whole or in part, by the Forest Service to satisfy any damages that may be assessed.

19. SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT CERTIFICATION. Non-procurement debarments and suspensions are governed by the Government-wide common rules (7 CFR 3017).

These rules require each timber sale purchaser, to submit a certification for itself, its principals, and its affiliates when bidding on sales. The bidder must designate its status regarding debarment, suspension, and other matters as specified on the bid form. The bidder, by signing the bid form, certifies this status. An explanation for not submitting a certification may be submitted. The Contracting Officer will determine whether the explanation provides sufficient reason for permitting participation in the bidding. Also, as a timber sale

purchaser enters into transactions with subcontractors, these subcontractors must certify their eligibility. The certification titled "Subcontractor Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion" must be provided to subcontractors, but completed certifications are not required to be submitted with bid forms. Purchaser must keep these subcontractor certification forms on file for review by the Forest Service, if requested.

The certification forms and instructions for subcontractor transactions are provided as an addendum to the bid form.

20. OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA) LOGGING REGULATIONS. Conduct of operations on this timber sale is subject to inspection for compliance with the logging operations regulations at 29 CFR 1910.266 by OSHA. This standard is applicable to the entire logging industry wherever logging operations occur. Information is available to assist purchasers to ensure compliance with the logging operations regulations during conduct of this timber sale from the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, California Department of Industrial Relations, 1515 Clay Street, Suite 1901, Oakland, California 94612.

21. GENERAL.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Bidders are hereby put on notice that the Basin Project NEPA document and associated decision, which provide the authority to conduct this timber sale, were administratively appealed pursuant to (36 C.F.R. 215 and/or 36 C.F.R. 217). This timber sale may therefore be subject to litigation in the future, which may result in contract suspension, modification, or termination. The contract provides for limited remedies in cases of suspension, modification, or termination due to administrative appeal and/or litigation. These remedies are further limited by the PRE-AWARD WAIVER, RELEASE, AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY AGREEMENT, which will likely be required prior to award of this contract. To receive documentation relevant to the administrative appeal noted above, please contact Nancy Francine, Plumas N.F. Forest Ecosystem Manager.

NOTICE OF LITIGATION

Bidders are hereby put on notice that the Basin Project NEPA document and associated decision, which provides the authority to conduct this project, is currently involved in litigation. This may result in contract suspension, modification, or termination. The contract provides for limited remedies in cases of suspension, modification, or termination due to litigation. These remedies are further limited by the PRE-AWARD WAIVER, RELEASE, AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY AGREEMENT, which will likely be required prior to award of this contract.

NOTICE OF PARTIAL INJUNCTION

As of the date of the drafting of this prospectus, the following partial injunction on the Basin Project, which the Ararat Timber Sale contract implements, is currently in force:

"Filed order (STEPHEN R. REINHARDT, JOHN T. NOONAN and RAYMOND C. FISHER): The court is considering the parties request and opposition to the emergency motion for injunction pending appeal. Pending the decision on the emergency motion, and further order of the court, the Forest Service is enjoined from proceeding with logging in the Empire, Basin, and Slapjack Projects that is inconsistent with the 2001 Framework, except such logging as may occur within the wildland urban intermix defense and threat zones, as defined in the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, which appears in the record at LER 518. [7416102] (AF). "

This injunction may remain in place, be modified, or be lifted by the time the Ararat Timber Sale contract is awarded. If a bidder needs additional information on the status of this or any future injunction prior to bidding, it is incumbent on the bidder to obtain that information.

LIMITATION ON LIABILITY

This is to notify prospective bidders on the Ararat Timber Sale that a PRE-AWARD WAIVER, RELEASE, AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY AGREEMENT will likely be required prior to award of this contract. A sample of this agreement is available at the U.S. Forest Service, Plumas NF, Feather River Ranger District, 875 Mitchell Avenue, Oroville, CA 95965.

Standard contract provisions are included in this contract which require the Purchaser to deposit funds in the Timber Sale Account (TSA) which the Forest Service will use to pay for scaling services provided by log scaling contractors. Bidders should be aware that several significant changes in timber sale contract administration procedures will be required to implement scaling using Forest Service provided

scaling services. Such changes include, but are not limited to the following provisions B6.81, B6.812, B6.811, and C6.849.

VOLUMES- the estimated sawtimber equivalent MBF volumes for CCF is as follows; 1626.70 MBF sale as a whole. Species breakdown is Ponderosa Pine 14.59 MBF, Sugar/ Western White Pine 77.35 MBF, White/Red Fir 1529.21 MMBF, Incense Cedar 5.55 MBF.

C2.35- DESIGNATION OF TIMBER: Boundaries are designated in orange paint, blue flagging and yellow/black signs. Boundary trees shall not be harvested nor damaged. All group selection subdivisions are Leave Tree Marked (LTM). All live conifer trees 30.0 inches DBH and greater are designated as leave trees with WHITE paint.

C5.32# - ROAD MAINTENANCE DEPOSIT: A rate of \$14.59 per CCF will be charged to all volume. The rate reflected in C5.32# in the contract includes Surface Replacement Deposit and Road Maintenance Deposits combined. (\$14.59/CCF+\$1.48/CCF=\$16.07/CCF)

C5.35#- SURFACE REPLACEMENT DEPOSITS: a rate of \$1.48/CCF will be charged to all volume.

C6.24#- SITE SPECIFIC MEASURES: Total avoidance is required for all control areas(CA's). Boundaries are posted in red/black striped flagging which may fade to orange/black striped flagging. After award of contract a Controlled Area Map will be issued to purchaser.

C6.24#- SITE SPECIFIC MEASURES: for the protection of Aquatic Species; at any approved water drafting site, the use of a FGM 5161 or other similar foot valve with opening less than 2mm will be required. Additionally, the foot valve shall be placed in the deepest section of the water source on a shovel, or plastic/canvas bucket after the site has been inspected for frogs or their eggs.

C6.24#- SITE SPECIFIC PROTECTION MEASURES: total avoidance of sensitive plants is required for all sites. All boundaries have been posted with 4" x 3" red plastic Control Area (CA) tags, blue/black and red/black stripe flagging. A control area map will be issued to purchaser after contract award.

C6.315#- SALE OPERATIONS SCHEDULE: units 1115. No operations are allowed from May 1st through August 15th.

C6.315#- SALE OPERATIONS SCHEDULE: roads 23N15, 23N18, 23N19, 23N54, 23N55, 23N60, 23N62X, 23N70, 23N29, 24N33, 24N36, PC414, PC423 (301). No hauling or snow removal from November 1st through April 15th, unless otherwise agreed.

C6.411#- DIRECTIONAL FELLING: trees shall be felled away from all control areas (CA's), streamcourse protection zones (RHCA's/SMZ's), meadows, springs, survey monuments, and improvements such as power lines and water lines, private property lines, and cattleguards.

C6.6#- TILLAGE OF LANDINGS/MAIN SKID-TRACTOR ROADS/TEMPORARY ROADS: no subsoiling on skid trails over 15% slope; but will require frequent water bars. The tillage of landings/main skid-tractor roads/temporary roads will not exceed 38 acres.

C6.7# -SCAT 18" is required for fuel treatment.

C6.7# -Purchaser will machine pile all landing slash.

C7.22#- EMERGENCY PRECAUTIONS: this contract contains new PAL (Project Activity Level) fire provisions. It is recommended prospective purchasers read C7.2# and C7.22#. Also note: purchaser must certify that required fire equipment used on the timber sale area meets contract and state fire requirements prior to operating during the fire precautionary period.

23. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Persons believing they have been discriminated against in any Forest Service related activity should write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or 202-720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.